

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: THE CSU AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS

1. INTRO AND SUMMARY. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AUGUST 19, CSU SEC GEN TANDLER OUTLINED IN DETAIL HIS PARTY'S POSITION ON THE BUNDESTAG DRAFT BILL REGULATING THE ELECTION OF FRG MEMBERS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. TANDLER CLAIMED THAT CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS AND CDU CHAIRMAN KOHL ARE IN ACCORD THAT CDU AND CSU MUST TRY TO MODIFY THE DRAFT BILL SO THAT THEY WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE COMPELLED TO SUBMIT SEPARATE CDU AND CSU "BUNDESLISTEN" IN EACH OF THE FRG "LAENDER". TANDLER STATED THAT ALTHOUGH CSU, LIKE CDU, WOULD PREFER "LANDESLISTEN", BILL IN ITS PRESENT FORM WOULD PRESENT CSU WITH NO REPEAT NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN SEPARATE "BUNDESLISTE." TANDLER'S STATEMENT IS MOST DEFINITIVE CSU UTTERANCE TO DATE ON THIS ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

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2. TANDLER BEGAN BY ASSERTING THAT CDU AND CSU ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT THAT "VERBUNDENE LANDESLISTEN" (E.G. SYSTEM IN WHICH CSU WOULD SUBMIT ITS OWN LIST FOR BAVARIA AND CDU WOULD SUBMIT LISTS IN THE NINE OTHER FRG LAENDER) WOULD BE THE OPTIMAL WAY TO ELECT THE (81) FRG REPRESENTATIVES TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

3. TANDLER CLAIMED, HOWEVER, THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT CDU/

CSU "BUNDESLISTE" WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE THERE IS NO REPEAT NO ENTITY (DACHGREMIUM) JOINING CDU AND CSU TOGETHER AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL.

4. IF, DESPITE EFFORTS OF CDU AND CSU, "LANDESLISTEN" CANNOT REPEAT NOT BE ACHIEVED, THE ONLY SOLUTION OPEN TO THE CSU WOULD BE A SEPARATE CSU "BUNDESLISTE." TANDLER CLAIMED THAT STRAUSS AND KOHL AGREED THAT CDU AND CSU SHOULD STRIVE TO ALTER THE PRESENT DRAFT BILL TO PERMIT A PARTY TO CHOOSE NOT REPEAT NOT TO SUBMIT ITS OWN "BUNDESLISTE" IN EACH OF THE "LAENDER."

5. EVEN IF, DESPITE ALL CDU AND CSU EFFORTS, EACH PARTY IS COMPELLED BY LEGISLATION TO PUT UP ITS OWN "BUNDESLISTE," THERE WOULD BE NO REPEAT NO NEED, SAID TANDLER, FOR THE CDU TO CIRCULATE ITS "BUNDESLISTE" TO VOTERS IN BAVARIA. THERE WOULD ALSO BE NO NEED FOR THE CSU TO RUN OUTSIDE BAVARIA, "OR AT LEAST NOT EVERYWHERE" OUTSIDE BAVARIA.

6. COMMENT. EVEN IF THE PRESENT BILL WERE PASSED AS IS, THE CSU WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE THE FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES TO SUBMIT ITS "BUNDESLISTE" TO THE VOTERS IN OTHER "LAENDER" IN SAME STYLE AS IN BAVARIA. MOREOVER, THE CSU CLEARLY WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT WANT TO HAVE THE CDU SUBMIT ITS "BUNDESLISTE" TO BAVARIAN VOTERS, IF THIS COULD IN ANY WAY BE AVOIDED.

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7. WE READ TANDLER'S STATEMENT THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR CSU TO RUN "EVERYWHERE OUTSIDE BAVARIA" AS BOTH A THREAT AND A SIGNAL THAT STRAUSS AND CSU ARE PREPARED TO BARGAIN. THREAT SEEMS DIRECTED MAINLY AGAINST ALBRECHT AND LOWER SAXONY CDU WHOSE RELATIONS WITH CSU HAVE LONG BEEN FROSTY. RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, STRAUSS SEEMS TO REGARD LOWER SAXONY AS IDEAL "LAND" TO TEST HIS AND CSU'S VOTE-GETTING ABILITIES OUTSIDE BAVARIA. ITS SMALL SIZE WOULD NOT OVERTAX CSU'S RESOURCES, AND A CSU POLL APPARENTLY INDICATES THAT STRAUSS HAS SOME ABILITY TO MOBILIZE VOTERS THERE. (N.B. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AS PART OF ITS EFFORT TO CANVAS ITS POSSIBILITIES IN LOWER SAXONY, CSU DID, IN FACT, HAVE A POLL TAKEN BY ONE OF FRG'S FIVE PROFESSIONAL POLLSTERS.)

8. THE IMPLIED BARGAIN OFFERED BY TANDLER'S STATEMENT IS THAT CSU WOULD AGREE TO LIMIT ITSELF TO BAVARIA IF CDU WERE TO AGREE TO A JOINT OPPOSITION STRATEGY WHICH MEETS THE CSU'S DESIDERATA.

9. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT STRAUSS IS NOT SEEKING ANOTHER KREUTH-LIKE ENCOUNTER WITH THE CDU NOW. IF, HOWEVER, A DRAFT BILL PKREPARED AGAINST CDU AND CSU WISHES PRESENTS CSU WITH OPPORTUNITY TO RUN OUTSIDE BAVARIA, STRAUSS WILL NOT REPEAT

NOT REJECT IT OUT OF HAND.
GILMORE

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